

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6523

Chapter 236, Laws of 2016
(partial veto)

64th Legislature
2016 Regular Session

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES--PURCHASE OF PENSION SERVICE
CREDIT

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/9/2016

Passed by the Senate March 10, 2016
Yeas 49 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 3, 2016
Yeas 81 Nays 14

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved April 1, 2016 5:26 PM with the
exception of Section 1, which is
vetoed.

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of
the Senate of the State of
Washington, do hereby certify that
the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE
BILL 6523** as passed by Senate and
the House of Representatives on the
dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

Secretary

FILED

April 4, 2016

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6523

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Pearson, Hasegawa, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to service credit for pension purposes for
2 certain emergency medical services employees; adding a new section to
3 chapter 41.40 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 ***NEW SECTION.** *Sec. 1. (1) Local governments formed*
6 *intergovernmental consortiums, also known as provider groups, to*
7 *provide emergency medical services over their shared geographic area.*
8 *Funds collected through an emergency services levy under RCW*
9 *84.52.069 were used to fund the consortium. Employees funded by the*
10 *consortium provided services to the citizens of all the consortium*
11 *members.*

12 *(2) The attorney general has ruled that where such a consortium*
13 *is formed pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the consortium members*
14 *retain their legal responsibilities as employers under the law*
15 *enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system and public*
16 *employees' retirement system. That is, the employees providing*
17 *services to the consortium are entitled to retirement system*
18 *membership if they otherwise meet membership eligibility requirements*
19 *(AGO 2007 No. 6).*

20 *(3) This act is intended to provide those public employees with*
21 *an opportunity to establish service credit in the public employees'*

1 *retirement system for emergency medical services they provided to the*
2 *public on behalf of a consortium or provider group.*

**Sec. 1 was vetoed. See message at end of chapter.*

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.40 RCW
4 under the subchapter heading "provisions applicable to plan 1, plan
5 2, and plan 3" to read as follows:

6 (1) An employee providing emergency medical services for a
7 consortium of local governments, where some of those local
8 governments qualified as public employees' retirement system
9 employers at the time the service was rendered, may make an election
10 to establish credit for service performed prior to July 27, 2003, as
11 a full-time emergency medical technician serving the consortium to
12 the public employees' retirement system. This option is only
13 available to employees who:

14 (a) Performed services for a consortium of local governments
15 fully contained within the boundaries of a county whose population on
16 the effective date of this section exceeds seven hundred thousand
17 residents but is less than eight hundred thousand residents; and

18 (b) File a written election to establish service credit under
19 this section with the department of retirement systems no later than
20 June 30, 2026.

21 (2)(a) The department of retirement systems shall treat the
22 consortium member with the largest current population among
23 consortium members who qualified as a public employees' retirement
24 system employer at the time the service was rendered as the employer
25 for purposes of this section. This employer classification:

26 (i) Is solely for the purpose of streamlining reporting service
27 and compensation credit and paying contributions for periods of
28 service covered by this section; and

29 (ii) Does not mean that the consortium member is the employee's
30 employer for any other purpose.

31 (b) All contributions required for past periods of service
32 established under this section shall be paid by the employees
33 electing to establish service credit under this section.

34 (i) Employee contributions shall be calculated by the department
35 equal to the contributions that would have been paid by the employee
36 had the employee been a member of public employees' retirement
37 system.

1 (ii) Employer contributions shall be calculated by the department
2 equal to the contributions that would have been paid by the employer
3 had the employee been reported in public employees' retirement
4 system.

5 (iii) All contributions must be submitted by the employee within
6 five years of electing to establish service credit under this
7 section.

8 (3) If a member who elected to establish service credit under
9 this section dies or retires for disability prior to payment of
10 contributions under subsection (2)(b) of this section, the member, or
11 in the case of death the surviving spouse or eligible minor children,
12 may:

13 (a) Pay the bill in full;

14 (b) If a continuing monthly benefit is chosen, have the benefit
15 actuarially reduced to reflect the amount of the unpaid obligation
16 under subsection (2)(b) of this section; or

17 (c) Continue to make payment against the obligation under
18 subsection (2)(b) of this section, provided that payment in full is
19 made no later than five years from the member's original election
20 date.

Passed by the Senate March 10, 2016.

Passed by the House March 3, 2016.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 2016, with the exception of
certain items that were vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 4, 2016.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 1,
Substitute Senate Bill No. 6523 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to service credit for pension purposes for
certain emergency medical services employees."

The first section of this bill is not necessary for the
implementation of the bill, and it raises facts that are inconsistent
with the remainder of the bill. This may cause confusion and make the
statute less clear.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 1 of Substitute Senate Bill
No. 6523.

With the exception of Section 1, Substitute Senate Bill No. 6523 is
approved."